THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are working for the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. However, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals neither gives any financial grants nor monitors the activities of such NGOs.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Price rise in controlled and de-controlled drugs

†2048. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) percentage of rise in the prices of drugs which are controlled by Government and those not controlled by Government between the years 1995 and 2005;

(b) when the Drug Policy, 2006 was submitted to the Group of Ministers and the number of its meetings held so far; and

(c) what are the details of Drug Policy, 2006 and the reasons for its non-implementation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The details of percentage of increase in the prices of Bulk Drugs, controlled by the Government since the formation of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August, 1997, are as follows:

	Since inception of NPPA (upto 8. 12.2008)	
	Nos.	% age
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price increased	104	23.42
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price decreased	321	72.30
Number of cases of Bulk Drugs where price fixed for the first time	14	3.15
No change in price	5	1.13
TOTAL	444	100

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations, *i.e* the drugs not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

(b) and (c) The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 are; Strengthening

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences; Rationalisation of Excise duty on Pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Strengthening of NPPA with greater computerization and better monitoring, Modified system of drug price control, regulation of Trade Margins on generic-generic drugs etc. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Availability of chemical fertilizers

2049.SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scarcity of chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) the total requirement, availability and per acre and per capita utilization of fertilizer in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether it is much less than China and European Countries; and

(d) the total amount of subsidy given on fertilizers and whether the farmers are getting the benefit of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. Urea, DAP and MOP are made available as per the requirement keeping in view the sales. However, there is little tightness in availability of complex fertilizers because of low indigenous production. Imported complex fertilizers are not covered under Concession Scheme.

(b) State-wise cumulative requirement, availability of major fertilizers during the current year 2008-09 (from April, 2008 to November, 2008) is given in the Statement-I (See below). Per hectare fertilizer consumption (N+P+K) is given in the Statement-II (See below).

(c) Fertilizer consumption per hectare of arable land and land under permanent crops during 2003-04 and 2004-05 Statement-III (See below) in India is much less than that in China (289.1 kg/ hectare), Netherlands (509.6 kg/ hectare), UK (305.2 kg/ hectare), Germany (216.2 kg/ hectare), France (210.5 kg/ hectare etc.

(d) The amount of subsidy given on fertilizers during the year 2007-08 was to the tune of 40,388 crores and during 2008-09, it is estimated at 119,772 crores. The farmers are getting the benefit of the subsidy as the fertilizer are available at the subsidized Maximum Retail Price (MRP) to the farmers which is not increased since 2002. The difference between the production cost/ import price of urea and the MRP is borne by the Union Government in form of subsidy.